IN THE CLAIMS:

1   1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for a network device to claim ownership of a

2   disk in a network storage system comprising the steps of:

3   setting a first ownership attribute on the disk to a state of ownership by the net-

4   work device; and

5   setting a second ownership attribute on the disk to a state of ownership by the net-

6   work device.

1   2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the first ownership attribute and

2   the second ownership attribute further comprises a small computer system interface level

3   3 persistent reservation tag.

1   3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the first ownership attribute and

2   the second ownership attribute further comprises ownership information written on a pre-

3   determined area of the disk.

1   4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein the ownership information further

2   comprises a serial number of the network device.

1   5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the network device comprises a file

2   server.

1   6. (ORIGINAL) A method of claiming ownership of a disk by a network device in a

2   network storage system comprising the steps of:

3   writing ownership information to a predetermined area of the disk; and

4   setting a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reservation tag to a

5   state of network device ownership.

1   7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6 wherein the ownership information further com-

2   prises a serial number of a network device.

1   8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6, wherein the network device comprises a file

2   server.

1   9. (ORIGINAL) A network storage system comprising:

2   a plurality of network devices;

3   one or more switches, each network device connected to at least one of the one or

4   more switch; and

5   a plurality of disks having a first ownership attribute and a second ownership at-

6   tribute, each disk connected to at least one of the plurality of switches.

1   10. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the first ownership

2   attribute further comprises ownership information written on a predetermined area of the

3   disk.

1   11. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the second ownership

2   attribute further comprises a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reserva-

3   tion tag.

1   12. (ORIGINAL) The networked storage system of claim 11, wherein each disk that is

2   owned by the network device has the small computer system interface level 3 persistent

3   reservation set such that only the network device may write to the disk.

1   13. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 10, wherein the ownership in-

2   formation further comprises of a serial number of the network device that owns that par-

3   ticular disk.

1   14. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality

2   of file servers can read data from each of the plurality of disks.

1   15. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 10, wherein only a network de-

2   vice that owns one of the plurality of disks can write data to the one disk.

1   16. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the network devices

2   comprise file servers.

1   17. (ORIGINAL) A network storage system comprising:

2   one or more switches;

6

3   a plurality of disks; and

4   a plurality of network devices, each of the network devices including means for

5   claiming ownership of one of the plurality of disks in the network storage system.

1   18. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 17, wherein the means for claim-

2   ing ownership further comprises:

3   means for writing ownership information to a predetermined area of a disk; and

4   means for setting a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reservation

5   on a disk.

1   19. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 17, wherein the network devices

2   comprise file servers.

1   20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A network storage system comprising:

2   one or more switches interconnected to form a switching fabric;

3   a plurality of disks, each of the disks connected to at least one of the switches,

4   each disk storing a first ownership attribute and a second ownership attribute; and

5   one or more network devices, interconnected with the switching fabric, each of

6   the network devices being adapted to own a predetermined set of disks of the plurality of

7   disks through use of the first and second ownership attributes.

21. (CANCELLED)

1 │ 22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The network storage system of claim 21 20, wherein

2 the first ownership attribute is ownership information written to a predetermined area of

3 each of the disks.

1 23. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 22, wherein the ownership in-

2 formation further comprises a serial number of one of the one or more network devices.

1 │ 24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The network storage system of claim 21 20, wherein

2 the second ownership information is a small computer system interface level 3 persistent

3 reservation.

1 25. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 20, wherein each of the network

2 devices further comprises a disk ownership table, the disk ownership table containing

3 ownership data for each of the disks.

1 26. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 25, wherein the ownership table

2 further comprises a world wide name for each of the disks, the world wide name being

3 used for identification of each of the disks.

1 27. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium, including program instructions execut-

2 ing on network device, for performing the steps of:

3   writing ownership information to a predetermined area of a disk; and

4   setting a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reservation tag to a

5 state of network device ownership.